

BOOKISH IN BELEN

The Newsletter of the Friends of the Belén Public Library

May 2021

Belén Public Library Programs & Services

Library services have been curtailed by the current county-based Public Health Order.

Limited curbside pick-up is available; call 966-2600 for details.

Wi-Fi is available in the parking areas surrounding the library building from 6:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday. The password is Guestwifi.

Appointments for computer time and virtual classroom use are suspended.

Library areas including restrooms are still closed to the public.

Browse the Free Cart next to the book drop box, each Wed from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Summer Reading Program

Summer is coming, and the librarians of the Belén Public Library are eager to enroll kids, teens, and adults in their Summer Reading Program—and prepared to give out lots of prizes. Intrigued? Read on.

For Children

Tails and Tales is the theme of this year's virtual Children's Summer Reading Program. The Calf Crafts segment provides craft supplies for animal-themed arts and crafts activities at home. The Tales for Tails segment features Miss Alyssa visiting farms and reading to the animals.

continued on page 2

333 Becker Avenue
Belén, New Mexico
505-966-2600
belenpubliclibrary@gmail.com



We are excited to announce that
BOOKS ON BECKER

our nonprofit secondhand bookstore
at 513 Becker Avenue
in the downtown Belén Arts District
will re-open in June.

Watch the Books on Becker [Facebook](#) page for details.

Seven rooms, comfy chairs, thousands of books,
great prices, and free street parking await you.

Kids, teens, and teachers may select
up to 2 free books per visit.

Purchases help fund Library programs and scholarships.

Would you like to donate your gently used books?
Email shop@booksonbecker.org for assistance.

Please note the following:

- ▶ We are always in need of children's books.
- ▶ We do NOT take books with water damage or mold, magazines, textbooks, dictionaries, or encyclopedias.

We will see you soon – in June!

... the people who give you their food give you their heart.

—CESAR CHAVEZ

Summer Reading Program

cont'd from page 1

Cubs Corner is a special version of Story Time for beginning readers that breaks down the fundamentals of reading.

Program participants receive a reading log—plus a sticker for every book they read. Small weekly prizes are given to encourage continued reading. The kids who read the most books earn the top prizes.

For Teens

The Teen Summer Reading Program offers a scavenger hunt to help teens learn about resources in the community.

During the first week, teens will receive supplies and create a video tutorial on how to make maze runner key chains, followed by a discussion on the Maze Runner book in a Zoom meeting. In the second week, teens will receive mugs to decorate with their favorite book quotes. In the third week, they will receive supplies to make dragon eggs. In the fourth week, the teens will write poetry using book titles and will present their poetry in a Zoom meeting. Weekly small prizes will be given, and grand prizes will be given to Zoom meeting participants who read the most.

The Children's and Teen programs begin on Monday, July 5. **Registration opens on Tuesday, May 18.** To register for either, contact Alyissa Aragon, Children's Librarian, at: Alyissa.Aragon@belen-nm.gov.

For Adults

Looking for adventure, but hesitant about leaving the house? Join the Adult Summer Reading Program, *50 Books for 50 States*, and "travel" to brand new destinations via books. You never know what you will find until you crack open a book and dive in!

The Adult Summer Reading Program is open to anyone aged 19 to 99 and runs from Monday, July 5, to Friday, August 13.

How many states can you journey through in six weeks? The more books you read, the better chance you have of winning some awesome prizes.



Registration begins on Monday, June 14. To register for the Adult Program, call Connie Ridley, Circulation Manager, at 505-966-2607.



A Tribute to Muriel Killion 1953 - 2021

by Mike Moreno



Our wonderful friend Muriel has gone on another adventure.

Muriel Jeanette (Tumbloo) Killion, 67, of Russellville, Arkansas, passed away Saturday, April 10, 2021 at Arkansas Hospice River Valley Home. She was born July 9, 1953, in Seward, Alaska, to Jesse Lee Hatch and Charlotte Walker. She was Eskimo-Aleut and grew up in Alaska.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her first husband, Earl Tumbloo. She is survived by her husband, Robert Killion; children, Inaay, Stacey, Anya, Jesse, Ronald, Lisa, and Ben Tumbloo; her sister, Diane Conklin; three brothers, Stuart, Neal, and Daniel Hatch; 14 grandchildren; two great grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Muriel worked as a schoolteacher in Alaska and a Director of Education in St. Petersburg and Venus, Florida, and then moved with Robert to Cuba, New Mexico, where she continued her work as a teacher until her retirement.

After retiring, she and Robert ran the Library Café at the Belén Public Library. She also volunteered at the Belén Harvey House Museum, where she dressed as a Harvey Girl and her husband Robert dressed as a locomotive engineer, greeting visitors at the front door. Muriel especially loved volunteering at the Bugg Lights and during the Christmas season.

After a long hard week of work, Muriel would still find time to make sandwiches and small survival kits for the homeless and would share them with those in need in Belén and Albuquerque. She also took time to mentor several local young women in her restaurant so they could learn work skills and earn a wage.

continued on page 4

Book Buzz

The super-readers of the Belén Friends Readers' Group book club may not have met in person for a long stretch, but their pursuit of reading pleasure hasn't waned, nor has their exchange of titles from their reading lists.

The Washington Post recently noted, "... our reading habits reflect our precarious reality. As the country has muddled through a deadly pandemic ... we've used books to escape the present." Book Club Chair Laura Sanchez underscores that trend when she talks about her own search this past year for reading that was "comforting, entertaining, and transporting."

Her recent reads included the [Shetland Island mystery series](#) by Ann Cleeves, set in remote northern Scotland and adapted for a BBC series, and Carl Hiassen's [Squeeze Me](#), a book she describes as being for those "in the mood for wildly grotesque escapism." About Tana French's latest Irish crime thriller, [The Searcher](#), she says, "it had a twist I absolutely did not see coming."

For more ideas on what to read next, consider these titles shared by other book club members:

[The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid](#) by Bill Bryson ("laughed my way through it")

[The Nakano Thrift Shop](#) by Hiromi Kawakami

[Maisie Dobbs books](#) by Jacqueline Winspear, mysteries set in England after WWI ("two things I love: female heroines and historical mysteries")

[Head Wounds](#) by New Mexico author Michael McGarrity

[Longmire mysteries](#) by Craig Johnson ("I enjoyed the TV series, but as usual, the books are much better")

A biography of [Ruth Bader Ginsburg](#)

[Bark of Night](#) and [Bury the Lead](#), mysteries by David Rosenfelt ("ever so irreverent, and thus very entertaining")

[Inspector Gamache series](#) by Louise Penny

[Granny Reid](#) "cozy mysteries" by G.A. McKevevett ("the characters aren't quite as 'cozy' as in some books, but they are likeable and kind of small-town country people")

[The Night Watchman](#) by Louise Erdrich

[Anywhere but Here](#) by Mona Simpson

[Old Bones](#) by Douglas Preston and Lincoln Child ("about a New Mexico archeologist who heads up a team to excavate the Donner Party camp ... pure escapism")

[The Glass Hotel](#) by Emily St. John Mandel ("it's been highly rated, and it's OK but not riveting for me")

[The Last Mile](#) and [Walk the Wire](#) by David Baldacci

Library Awarded Family Literacy Grant

The American Library Association, with funding from Dollar General, has awarded the Belén Public Library (BPL) a \$5,000 American Dream Literacy Initiative grant to develop a Family Literacy Program at the Library.

This project will expand on the current family literacy activities of the BPL, in partnership with the Valencia County Literacy Council (VCLC) and University of New Mexico-Valencia's Next Steps: Adult Education Center. The new Family Literacy Program will integrate adult basic education (ABE) and English as a second language (ESL) services with the BPL's early childhood literacy program, as well as its Career Online High School and career readiness resources.

The goal of the Family Literacy Program will be for the BPL to serve as a center where local families can come together to improve their literacy skills through co-tutoring of children and adults, to share ideas and issues with other families, and ultimately to improve their social networks and long-term economic potential. In addition, the BPL will provide families with referrals to other literacy and career readiness resources.

The BPL will collaborate with an inclusive and intersecting set of Advisory Groups to design the Family Literacy Program. These Advisory Groups will include current and former ABE and ESL students of VCLC, current and former VCLC tutors, current and former parents from the BPL's early childhood literacy program, Spanish-speaking community leaders, and leaders from other local organizations dedicated to some aspect of family literacy, like Valencia County Head Start, Belén Consolidated Schools, and H2 Academic Solutions.

Program design input will focus on tutor training methods and styles, physical and electronic resources, participant assessments, and outreach strategies.

Outside of a dog, a book is a man's best friend.

Inside of a dog, it's too dark to read.

—GROUCHO MARX

Library Receives Facebook Technology Grant

The Facebook Community Action Grants program has awarded the Belén Public Library \$9,900 to create virtual and hybrid programming to support the community's use of technology for education, career readiness, and daily life in our digital world. Specific programming is planned for Pre-K, 3rd to 6th grade, young adult, and adult learners.

Pre-K Story Time: Professional videos combined with activities will be distributed to families curbside, to keep children engaged at home.

3rd-6th Grade Girls Who Code Club: Using the MIT-developed Scratch coding language, girls will become comfortable with the lingo, process, and career opportunities of computer science.

Career Online High School: Four young adults aged 19 or above will select a vocational track and complete their high school education with a diploma, rather than a GED.

Virtual Book Club: Young adult club members will acquire critical job skills like using meeting software, communication, teamwork, and virtual networking, while enjoying book discussions and author presentations.

Adult Computer Classes: The Library's Facebook-funded Computer Learning Lab will provide online, interactive classes for a variety of computer skills, by using video-conferencing, live streaming, video tutorials, and scheduled phone support.

Additionally, the Belén Public Library and Harvey House was accepted as an Employer Partner in the Facebook Career Connections program. Library Director Kathleen Pickering explained: "Out of thousands of applications, our application stood out! We will receive two Facebook interns focusing on Social Media and Digital Marketing, from the beginning of June through mid-August."

Tribute

cont'd from page 2

Muriel was an angel who came to life. Her healthy good food menu was one of a kind in Belén; it was her wonderful way to spread love, togetherness, and a positive community spirit.

When Muriel met you, she would treat you as a guest and never forget your name. I always felt so honored when I went to the Café; she treated every customer as if they were her family. She created an amazing change in our community that helped to bring us together when we needed it.

We will always be honored that you chose Belén as one of your adventures in life. Thank you, Mrs. Muriel, for breaking bread with us.

Experience a unique period in American railroad history.

The Belén Harvey House Museum

at 104 North 1st Street in Belén

is **OPEN** for guided tours by appointment only.

Call 505-861-0581 to make your reservation.

Deborah Graham Memorial Scholarships

The Graham Scholarships are open to college-bound seniors at Belén High, Infinity High, and Canon Christian Academy. The **deadline** to apply has been extended to **June 15**. Four \$1000 scholarships will be awarded this summer.

To apply, visit: www.booksonbecker.org/scholarships.

The Scholarships are made possible by generous support from Lifetime Friends member **Janis Marston** and by the Friends.


Bookstore photo courtesy of Dorie Corrao

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